

NORTHORPE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held on Monday 10 January 2011 in the Church Hall, Manor Road, Northorpe.

Present: Councillors E Henson, (Chairman), F Mosey, J Little, N Montgomery, B Pryor, B Dunk and L Marasco

1/01/11 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2/01/11 Co-option of Councillor

Resolved: To co-opt Lyn Marasco as a parish councillor

3/01/11 Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 November 2010

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2010 were signed by the Chairman as a true record, subject to noting that on minute 4/11/10, (d) Verge Planting, Councillor Dunk had not actually ordered the pea gravel. The minute was amended to read 'would be ordering'.

4/01/11 Clerk's Report

a) Wakefield Trust

No progress was reported.

d) Verge Planting

No further action had been taken because of the weather.

c) Highways

The clerk confirmed she had written to Lincolnshire County Council's Highways Service to thank them for the work they had done in the village, and confirm that the parish council wished to accept their offer to spray and reseed the remaining section of verge around the playing field. Councillors were not expecting any further work to be carried out until later in the year.

Mention was made of recent flooding at the junction of Monson Road and the B1205. It was agreed to keep the matter under review, and report it to the Highways Service if the flooding persisted in less extreme weather conditions.

d) Grass Cutting Contract 2011

The clerk said that she had written to Garden Angels accepting their offer of £50 per cut during 2011, and suggesting a fixed rate of £55 per cut during 2012 and 2013. So far she had not received a reply. Councillor Marasco asked if consideration had been given to employing anyone in the village to cut the grass. The Chairman explained that there were

problems with using self-employed contractors, including the need to ensure they were suitably insured and made proper tax returns.

Councillor Montgomery referred to the application he had submitted to Community Spaces for phase 2 of the playground development. This included generous funding for the employment of a landscape architect. It was proposed that Garden Angels would fulfil this role. He felt that the funding would cover some of the cost of grounds maintenance in the playing field, as well as the services of landscape architect.

Resolved: To confirm the contract with Garden Angels at £50 per cut during the 2011 growing season.

e) Playing Field Water Supply

Councillor Dunk said that she no longer has contact details for the person who had said that a supply could be installed free of charge.

f) Precept 2011/12

The clerk confirmed that she had returned a form to West Lindsey District Council estimating the precept at £1935. The Parish Council was now required to complete a second form to authorise payment of the agreed amount into their bank account

Resolved: To sign the precept form authorising £1935 to be credited to the Parish Council for the year 2011/12.

5/01/11 Application for Post of Clerk to the Parish Council

The Chairman commented that two applications had been received, from Sallie Anne Bailey and April Harrison. Details received from both applicants had been circulated.

Although it was accepted that the clerk would be responsible for maintaining accounts for the parish council and the playing field, it was considered unnecessary for the clerk to attend all playing field committee meetings.

Resolved: (i) To offer the post of clerk to April Harrison, subject to receiving a satisfactory reference, starting with a salary set at spinal column point 20, based on one hour a week for 52 weeks per year.

(ii) To review the salary annually.

6/01/11 Village Champion's Report

Councillor Dunk reported that the signpost had been erected at the Scotton end of Monson Road, but at the wrong height. She said that she had reported it to the council, who had agreed to investigate the matter.

7/01/11 Playing Field Committee Report

There had been no committee meetings since the last parish council meeting. Councillor Montgomery confirmed that he had submitted phase 2 of the Community Spaces grant application. He was now awaiting a decision, which should be made within 10 weeks. Douglas Challinor had replaced Dian Booth on the committee.

Councillor Montgomery explained that if the application were successful he would have to contact 3 possible suppliers. The installation of new equipment would necessitate the relocation of the goal posts. The funding would include the cost of this, the provision of seats, a teenage shelter, other play equipment and the services of a landscape architect. The bid was valued at a total of £45,000 including VAT

Councillors were informed that the bid made to Lincolnshire County Council had not been successful.

A statement showing the transactions made from the playing field bank account was circulated. There was currently a credit of £1500. Councillor Montgomery confirmed that he kept records to reconcile the funding received from each organisation that had provided grant aid with the expenditure made against it. He said that he would make the information available to the clerk to enable the annual accounts to be prepared.

Councillor Dunk was thanked for her fund raising activities, which included a market stall on Gainsborough and the Christmas raffle.

8/01/11 Planning Matters

There was nothing to report on this item.

9/01/11 Correspondence

a) Training

Information had been received about a training bursary and training courses for councillors and clerks. The clerk agreed to obtain a copy for Councillor Marasco.

b) Self Employed Staff

The Chairman commented on advice received from the Chief Executive of Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils about parish councils' legal responsibilities when using self employed contractors. These included ensuring they were properly insured and that they made correct tax declarations to HMRC.

The clerk agreed to provide a copy for Councillor Marasco.

c) West Lindsey District Council- Elections

Confirmation had been received that all district councillors would be elected together in May. Parish councillors' term of office would also end in April this year. They were advised that existing councillors would be sent nomination forms to stand again from West Lindsey District Council.

A notice to advise others living in the village of the opportunity to stand would be included in the next Parish News.

d) Invitation to Focus Groups

Meetings were to be held in February aimed at resolving outstanding community issues. Councillors Dunk and Marasco expressed an interest in attending, and were given details on when and where the meetings were to take place.

10/01/11 Payments Made and Outstanding

Parish Council Payments Made Since the Last Meeting –

Garden Angels	1 grass cut	£52.87 inc VAT
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It was pointed out that this was for the 13th cut of the year. Garden Angels' contract had been for only 12 cuts, but the Chairman had approved payment for the extra cut on the condition that the company gave prior notice if this should happen again.

11/01/11 Any Other Business

Councillors referred to the recent erratic collection of bins. The green bins had not been emptied for a number of weeks and black bin collection had not taken place that day. Councillor Pryor said that he had spoken to the council and been told that the next green bin collection would take place on 31 January. The council would also be willing to collect material in black bags.

Councillors understood that there had been some lapse from the published schedule because of the recent bad weather, but they expected the published schedule to be resumed as soon as possible.

12/11/10 Date of Next Meeting

It was agreed that the annual assembly would be held at 7.00pm, Monday 14 March 2011, in the Church Hall, Manor Road, Northorpe. The district councillors would be invited to attend.